



News Release

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CONTACT: Al Lundeen
(916) 440-7259

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UNION INTERNATIONAL FOOD COMPANY RECALL WIDENED AGAIN

SACRAMENTO – Dr. Mark Horton, director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), today announced the recall of Union International Food Company spices has once again been widened. The recall now includes additional spices sold under the Lian How brand and Uncle Chen brand names.

White and black pepper products from the company's Union City facility in the Bay Area have been associated with an outbreak of salmonella that has sickened 42 people in four states, including 33 in California. No deaths have been reported. The illnesses among California residents have occurred in 15 counties in Central and Northern California.

CDPH continues to identify the retailers that sell the Lian How Brand and Uncle Chen products. A list of those retailers already identified is available at www.cdph.ca.gov and will be updated as new information becomes available.

The recall expansion includes the following newly identified products:

- Uncle Chen Wasabi powder in 2.2 pound foil bags
- Uncle Chen White Pepper (whole and ground) in 5-pound plastic bags
- Lian How Brand Cumin Powder in 5-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand Crushed Chili in 8-pound and 30-pound boxes and 3-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand Orange Peel Powder in 5-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand Black Sesame Seed in 5-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand Pepper Corn Powder in 5-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand White Sesame Seed in 10-pound boxes and 5-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand Turmeric in 5-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand Ginger Powder in 5-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand Meat Tenderizer in 10-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand Bay Leaves in 10-pound boxes

- Lian How Brand Cloves in 5-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand Dried Cloves Powder in 5-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand Coriander Powder in 5-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand Coriander in 3-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand Fennel Seed in 5-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand Fennel Seed Powder in 5-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand Cinnamon Powder in 5-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand Garlic Salt in 9-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand Black Pepper Salt in 5-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand Five-Spices Powder in 5-pound plastic bags
- Lian How Brand Nutmeg in 5-pound plastic jars
- Lian How Brand Star Anise Powder in 5-pound plastic jars

Union International Food Company has initiated a voluntary recall of spices repackaged in its facility. CDPH and the FDA are continuing their investigation at the facility to determine the source of the salmonella. Results from environmental and product samples taken from the facility show that 44 out of 50 samples tested to date are positive for salmonella. Additional review is underway to determine if the DNA fingerprint of these environmental and product samples have the same DNA fingerprint as the salmonella that sickened 42 people.

Salmonella can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in infants, frail or elderly individuals and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy individuals infected with salmonella often experience fever, diarrhea (occasionally bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, infection can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and produce more severe illnesses. Consumers should consult with their physicians if they have these symptoms.

The CDPH website will be updated with additional information as it becomes available. Consumers with questions may contact Union International Food Company at (510) 471-6799.

www.cdph.ca.gov